

Did you know?

- Computer software violations are a **felony** and Missouri educators will lose their certificate if convicted of a felony.
- **No** videotape may be used for entertainment, reward, or time-fillers without obtaining public performance rights.
- “Bounty-hunters” are hired by some companies to identify and report violators of copyright law and guidelines.



- Information found on the Internet is copyrighted unless accompanied by a message explicitly permitting duplication.
- Copying for the purpose of teaching is not **automatically** legal.
- Technology allows easy duplication but does not necessarily make the duplication legal. In other words, just because you **can** does not mean you **may**.

Types of Infringement

- **innocent** = an educator has made every effort to comply with copyright law by following guidelines but unknowingly overlooked something.
- **standard** = an educator makes no effort to become informed about or comply with copyright law and guidelines.
- **willful** = an educator is aware of but chooses to disregard copyright law and guidelines.



Infringement Discovery

- Some companies require sales representatives to report observed copyright infringements.
- Discovery of infringements can be as simple as a parent or school visitor noticing a violation in a school publication or at a school event and reporting the discovery.

Infringement Penalties

- \$500 to \$20,000 per work infringed upon.
- Up to \$100,000 in cases of willful infringement.
- \$20,000 per violation per day in cases of computer software. Computer software violations are a felony and Missouri educators will lose their certificate if convicted of a felony.



Infringement Law Suit

- The person who violates the law is the primary offender.
- Board of education, the superintendent, curriculum director, principal, etc. can be sued.
- Secondary offenders having knowledge of the infringement (contributory and / or vicarious infringers).

**Suggested Steps for
Compliance with District
Copyright Policy and Guidelines**

- Develop and use a form to request copyright permission.
- Follow established district guidelines and procedures for the use of copyrighted materials.
- Participate in staff development sessions addressing copyright law and guidelines and the importance of compliance in the district for all staff members.
- Conduct training for students in the use of copyrighted materials which may be incorporated into their presentations and / or portfolios.

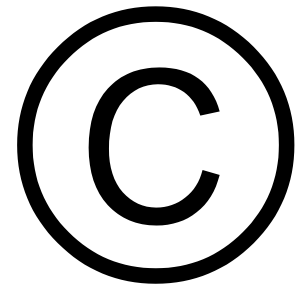
For more information contact

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Unlimited copies may be made by schools in the state of Missouri. Brochures are available on the Internet. dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/copyright/index.htm

Educators and Copyright

**What do Educators
need to know
to protect
themselves from
copyright violations?**



Ignoring this symbol
could lead to
ugly publicity,
extensive litigation,
and stiff financial penalties.